Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-60 (canceled)

61. (Previously presented) A method for separating and/or isolating circular nucleic acids from a bacterial crude lysate mixture wherein the mixture is treated under alkaline conditions at a pH of 8 to 12 with a solid matrix consisting essentially of a silica material in the presence of at least one chaotropic substance present at a concentration of 4-9 M.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the circular nucleic acid is double stranded DNA.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the mixture contains non circular nucleic acids and at least one other species of nucleic acids.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the chaotropic substance is a chaotropic salt and/or the chaotropic substance is an alcohol.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is a silica or glassier membrane, glass or silica in particulate form, beads or frits and/or silica-gel membranes comprising stacks of multi layer membranes.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is magnetic attractable beads with a silicaceous surface.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the alkaline conditions are adjusted by adding an aqueous solution of an amphoteric substance.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, performed in multi well plates.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, performed using automatic pipetting machines.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the following process steps are performed:

- cell lysis
- adjustment of conditions for selective binding of plasmid DNA preventing binding of linear DNA to silica material

- selective absorption of plasmid DNA to a silica surface
- washing of the silica material
- elution of the plasmid DNA from the silica material.

Claims 71 and 72 (cancelled)

73. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~71~~ 61, wherein the circular nucleic acid is a plasmid.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the mixture contains non- circular nucleic acids and at least one other species of nucleic acids selected from the group consisting of RNA, single stranded DNA, double stranded linear DNA, circular open double stranded DNA, and combinations thereof.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the chaotropic substance is a thiocyanate, urea, guanidinium salt, perchlorate salt, a halide salt and/or the chaotropic substance is methanol, ethanol, n–propanol, isopropanol, n–butanol, n–pentanol, or combinations or said chaotropic substances.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is a silica or glassier membrane, glass or silica in powder form, beads or frits and/or silica-gel membranes comprising stacks of several membrane layers (multi layer membranes).

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is magnetic attractable beads with a silica or glass-fiber surface.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the alkaline conditions are adjusted by adding an aqueous solution of an amphoteric omega amino acid.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the alkaline conditions are adjusted by adding an aqueous solution of an amphoteric omega amino acid to effect a pH between 8 and 12 in the resulting mixture.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, performed in multi well plates of 384 or 96 wells.

Claims 81-83 (canceled).